AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method of estimating a relevance of a document with respect to a concept comprising:

calculating a relevance function of the concept with respect to said document based upon a known predetermined set of concepts in a knowledge base that are related to that concept by different semantic links, said set of concepts being called a semantic neighborhood of the concept, ~~and, if the document is considered to be relevant with respect to the concept:~~

determining whether said document is relevant with respect to the concept and when so determined, calculating an ambiguity function of said concept in said document, which ambiguity function is different from the relevance function, estimation related to by estimating the presence of different meanings of the concept in the document, and marking the document considered to be relevant with a result of the calculation of the ambiguity function .

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein the relevance function measures a presence, in the document, of the concept and of concepts from the semantic neighborhood of that concept in the document.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, when the semantic neighborhood of the concept (12) includes a plurality of sets of concepts linked to different meanings of the concept concerned, called semantic clouds , the ambiguity function compares the presence of concepts belonging to a semantic cloud corresponding to a predetermined meaning of the concept with the presence of concepts belonging to different semantic clouds .

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein the presence of each of the concepts belonging to the different semantic clouds is weighted by a predetermined coefficient.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , including a preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts , i.e. concepts having a plurality of semantic clouds with different meanings in the same semantic neighborhood.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein, during the preliminary detection step, two concepts are considered to be ambiguous if they are linked to each other by at least two different semantic links .

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein, during the preliminary detection step, a concept is considered to be ambiguous if it is linked to at least two semantic clouds with different meanings.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein, the concept belonging to a knowledge base obtained by merging a first knowledge base with a second knowledge base , the preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts is executed during merging.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein, during the ambiguous concept detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base is considered to be ambiguous if it is linked by a new link to another concept from the first knowledge base .

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept , wherein, during the ambiguous concept detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base is considered to be ambiguous if it is linked to a semantic cloud of the second knowledge base.

11.   (new) A method of estimating a relevance of a document with respect to a concept comprising:

calculating a relevance function of the concept with respect to said document based upon a known predetermined set of concepts in a knowledge base that are related to that concept by different semantic links, said set of concepts being called a semantic neighborhood of the concept,

and, if the document is considered to be relevant with respect to the concept:

calculating an ambiguity function of said concept in said document, which ambiguity function is different from the relevance function, estimation related to by estimating the presence of different meanings of the concept in the document, and

marking the document considered to be relevant with a result of the calculation of the ambiguity function

and, if the document is not considered to be relevant with respect to the concept:

marking the document as not being relevant.